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FREE INDIA

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Nobody Will Be Able To Break Up The Janata Party - P.M.

PRIME MINISTER Morarji Desai declared emphatically on Wednesday that nobody will be able to break up the Janata Party.

The Prime Minister addressing a public meeting at Kannappar Thidal, Madras, lashed out at those who criticised the performance of the Janata Government and said most of the criticism was "unreasonable".

He declared that the Janata Party stood by whatever pledges it had made during the elections. These would all be fulfilled.

He said he was not surprised at the stand taken by the Opposition parties. He was sure the critics would themselves admit in the next few months that they had erred in their judgement.

He urged that things be understood in the proper perspective. Everything could not be acheived overnight. They had no magic wand to produce instant results. There were some matters on which action could be taken quickly while there were others which took some time to fructify.

Mr Desai rejected the criticism that the Janata Party could not survive for long and it would break up not only within the country but abroad also. This was only a wish of the Opposition and the Janata party was not going to oblige them. He said "You can be rest assured that nobody will be able to break up the Janata party".

WISHFUL THINKING

If there were some differences among the Janata workers, these were not unnatural and these would not themselves result in the break-up of the party. "Let me tell you without any fear of contradiction that there is not even a ripple of diffences in the working of the Government at the Centre or any where else. We work together unanimously without difficulty".

Everyone in the party was fully convinced that if anything happened to the party "it would be the greatest disaster for the country for many years to come." That conviction was the guarantee for the Janata party remaining together.

LAW AND ORDER

Referring to criticism over law and order issue, especially the treatment meted out to Harijans, Backward classes and minorities, Mr Desai said that compared with figures for the last five or six years and after March when the Janata party came to power, they would find that there was a marked reduction in the number of cases of oppression. It does not mean that he was taking a stand that things were better now. That would not help. He was anxious to see that there was no single case of oppression of Harijans, Backward classes and minorities anywhere in the country. Until that happened, he was not going to be satisfied.

But no political capital should be made by any party on this issue. They should all work together to remove the difficulties faced by the Harijans, Backward classes and minorities. They could blame the Government only if it was unwilling to help remove these difficulties.

ROLLING PLAN

Mr. Desai took the opportunity to defend the concept of rolling plan that has been enunciated by his government.

He said that it would make planning more effective. They changed the planning strategy because they believed in planning more strongly than others. He pointed out that no five-year plan had fulfilled more than seventy per cent of the targets and that had led the country to monetary diffi ulties, as also difficulties on the price front. Those who were coming forward now to criticise the new concept were the ones who had really created the problems.

Under the rolling plan, they were having a system of perpetual planning. They would be having a perspective plan for ten years, to remove problems like unemployment and the like. They would be also having a 25 year perspective plan.

It was not correct to say that planning was being "rolled up". Probably those people did not understand the significance of the new concept. Such criticism was meaningless.

MORARJI DESAI
Prime Minister

Prohibition Loss : No Compensation

Prime Minister Morarji Desai rejected the demand for compensation for the loss of revenue sustained by the re-introduction of Prohibition in Tamil Nadu. He asked "Why should we do it ?"

Tamil Nadu had been having Prohibition for a long time. Simply because the State had made some 'immoral' gains during a short period when Prohibition was suspended, it should not claim compensation and it was for the State to find alternative revenue, he added.

No National Debate On Rolling Plan

Prime Minister Morarji Desai while talking to members of the Madras Reporters' Guild at Raj Bhavan, Madras, disagreed with the view that the new rolling plan concept should be thrown open for a national debate with all interests, including Opposition parties participating, as suggested by Mr. Y. B. Chavan, leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha.

Mr. Desai felt that there was no need for convening any national body for discussion of the plan. The opposition members did have ample opportunity to express their views and nobody in the Government had said the authorities concerned should never take a look at these views. The National Development Council, which had all the Chief Ministers drawn from different political parties in it would thoroughly discuss the plan strategy and finalise it.

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

True Beauty after all consists in purity of heart. Art to be art must soothe. I want art and literature that can speak to the millions.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Sept. 25, 1977

SAVE THE TEMPLES

There may be villages without electricy but there is no village without a temple in Tamilnadu Lakhs of people are employed directly in the service of temples and enjoying indirect benefits let alone the spiritual uplift gained by all.

Even an anti-god government have developed a vested interest in these ancient temples. They have become a source of foreign exchange through tourism.

But unfortunately the temples have been allowed to go to ruins. Though endowed with enormous properties from time immemorial, the incomes of many temples dwindled to nothing because of the wrong policies adopted by "secular" governments.

One of the biggest and the most sacred temples in Srivilliputhur, birth place of Sri Andal the mystic poetess, is on the verge of closure.

Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran, who is holding the H. R. & C. E. port folios also, has found looting of temple funds on a large scale by the trustees and has promised prompt action to book the culprits.

There is already a widely prevalent suspicion that some of the rare jewels of temples might have been replaced by spurious ones. An early check up of the jewels of all the temples is also important.

Temples' lands must be exempted from tenancy laws as the Andhra Pradesh Government have done. It is reported that about Rs. 9 crores are in arrears from tenants, some of whom are really rich.

We believe that the keen interest evinced by the Chief Minister in the temples and the great enthusiasm shown by the H.R.&C.E. commissioner, Mr. M. K. Balasubramaniam, the temples in Tamilnadu will be restored to their ancient glory.

The commissioner has already launched a big renovation project for about 1,200 temples at an estimated cost of Rs. 3 crores. Work has already been started on some important temples.

Without the active cooperation of the Asthikas, the Commissioner may not be able to achieve much. Let us unite to strengthen his hands.

Of Men And Matters

Polarisation In Politics

THE Charm of political power is irresistable. Ambitious persons as well as organisations trive to attain that goal by means fair or foul.

Even the great Mahatma, the Father of our nation, though essentially a man of immense piety, did not hesitate to set aside scruples when he felt that he had to have his way in certain matters. His choice of Pattabi Seetaramaiya for the presidentship of the Indian National Congress as against Subhas Chandra Bose was one of asserting his will in the face of popular feeling.

Rajaji had no qualms about campaigning for the DMK in routing the Tamil Nad Congress in the 1967 election.

Indira Gandhi talked of one's conscience when asking her partymen to vote for Giri ignoring the official candidate, Mr. Sanjiva Reddy in the 1969 Presidential election.

As in war, all is fair in politics. The coming together of the hetrogenous groups like the Congress (O), Jana Sangh, BLD, the Swatantra and others under a single banner to form the Janatha Party was a political necessity to oust the Congress from power.

THE BEGINNING

In Tamil Nadu the process of polarisation has just begun. The Makkal DMK which was only till the other day a part of the DMK, has now decided to merge with the ruling AIADMK party while the TAK led by Ma. Po. Si. is toying with the idea of join hands with Congress. The subtle difference between all these regional groups is not one of substance or ideology, but of shades.

The craze for office still remains as the guiding spirit behind most of the dissidents who switch from one party to another. The Makkal DMK which had the briefest life-span for any political party, consisted mainly of a number of former Ministers of the dismissed DMK regime, namely, Messrs Nedunchezhian, K. Rajaram, S. Madhavan and S. P. Aditanar. The first and second named are likely to be fitted into office when the proposed expansion of the AIADMK Ministry takes place.

The ADMK, led by Koval Chezhian has also merged with the AIADMK. It is a comical interplay political professionals hobnobbing for the plums of office and nothing beyond that. Only time can tell whether the AIADMK has bargained for trouble and discord in accepting these men into its fold or the AIADMK would really grow into a big giant by absorbing these elements.

NATIONAL PARTIES' ROLE

The question still remains as to what effective role the local units of the national parties like the Congress, the Janatha, the CPI and CPM would be able to do to assert themselves in Tamil Nadu. The Congress Party has chosen the middle road of whipping up the price-rise question in the form of country-wide campaign to register the common man's anger against the Central Government. But how far will this help the Congress and others to make a dent into local politics, because the AIDMK will also urge for the control of prices?

Again, it is fortunate for the AIADMK that the Janatha too is thinking in terms of country-wide Prohibition which enables the Central Government and the Tamil Nadu Government to make common cause.

MFL Marches Ahead

Mr. M. V. Arunachalam, Chairman, Madras Fertilizers Limited, Madras, told pressmen on Tuesday that the production and sales of their products during the first quarter of the current financial year created new highs. He said that in July 1977 the NPK monthly production crossed 50,000 MT surpassing previous records. The sales of all products reached all the time high record of 100,590 Mt in June 1977.

Madras Fertilizers have declared a dividend of 15% on the equity capital.

Dr. Easo John, Managing Director, explained the various village adoption and rural development programmes of the company. He said the main future of their work in the field of rural development was that they have achieved absolute coordination of the various agencies which was essential for any development work.

Some of the achievements of MFL during the operating year 1976-77 were:

* The Company has made profit being Rs. 33.59 million (before tax).
* Stood FIRST in India in production, producing 230,260 MT of total nutrients.
* Achieved the highest on-stream efficiency with minimum downtime.
* Achieved an all-time high sales record of 5.3 lakh MT of all products.
* Completed 4.57 million (781 days) manhours of safe operations as of March. 31, 1977. As on Sept. 20, 56.1 million (954 days) manhours of safe operation has been achieved
* Has won the American Safety Council's "Award of Honour" for 3 million mankours of safe operation in 1976 and also for 5 million manhours of safe operation in June 1977.

The MFL's operation which was confined to Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry till recently has been extended to other states like Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra. Orissa etc.

MFL proposes to extend know-how and experience in the long-term intensive development programmes to other interested non-agricultural input companies who wish to participate in rural development.

Short Story

ANDRESHKO

By ELIN PELIN

THE AUTHOR

ELIN Pelin was a prominent Bulgarian writer whose birth centenary is being celebrated this year at the decision of UNESCO throughout the world. His works have been translated into many foreign languages including that of Hindi, Arabic, Chinese, Vietnamese, Mongolian, Japanese and Spanish. Elin Pelin is the most popular representative of Bulgarian literature among the broad reader's circles in the world.

The short story published here (in two parts) reflects effectively the thinking of a village peasant and urban official

'WELL get there early, sir. While it's still light. There's the village—just there by the little forest. D'you see? When we cross that hill yonder, the low one, we'll be almost there.'

And, cracking his whip over the horses, the young carter shouted to them in a loud encouraging voice:

"Gee-wo hey! ......Gee up, gentlemen!'

The four wheels of the cart splashed faster through the slushy mud along the village lane. Its rickety frame rattled dully through the mournful, deserted, rain-socked plain. The peasant shouted again, settled himself more comfortably on the wooden case upon which he was sitting, tossed back the damp hood of his heavy cap and began to hum quietly and indifferently to himself.

"What's your name, boy' the fat gentleman, who was sitting in the cart, asked from the depths of his enormous fur coat.

The youth went on humming.

'Hey, boy', cried the gentleman loadly and hoarsely.

"Eh?"

'Your name, your name? What was your name?'

'Andreshko.'

'A-ah, Andreshko...You're a sly one. That's what you've all become. You peasants are all cunning now...You only know how to lie and be sly...And how you pretend! I see you in the law-courts...wolves. Peasants just play with the judges'.

'We're simple folk, sir, it's just that people slander us. It seems we are sly to you, but it isn't so. Our villagers lie from simplicity. Simplicity and poverty.'

'Ah, poverty, poverty, indeed! What they need is a whip about them. They complain of poverty and drink like swine.'

'And why do you think they do that? Because of their fine lives? No, no...They certainly drink. To forget their troubles... A man like you should take good note of that.'

'A-ah, you seem to have had a drop, too, my friend! And you're still young, you haven't got any moustache to speak of yet...Your peasants...better write them off as a dead loss, and that's that!'

'You'd better write them off, sir, we don't know how to write,' said the youth and turning to his scraggy horses he called at them: 'Gee-up, gee-up, gentlemen!' and fell to thinking.

The horses jogged on at a quicker pace and also fell to thinking. The gentleman raised the collar of his immense coat, sank into it and fell to thinking, too. A raven with ruffled feathers, perched on a lonely tree by the roadside, swung on its withered branch, cawed in a depressed way and also fell to thinking. Across the ragged sky, damp and gloomy winter clouds crawled heavily and slowly and were slits of blue sky, equally moody and cold. The earth had sunk into mud and dampness. The scattered landscape of villages, rivers, distant forests and mountains was dead and sorrowfully dark. Large pools of water shone in the plain, cold and staring, like the eyes of the dead.

The little cart staggered through the deep, slushy mud, sank into it, emerged again, and zig-zagged along. A loose board at the side rattled constantly, monotonously, hollowly and senselessly: it seemed to strike the nerves of the stout gentleman in the fur coat, and made him lose his patience. He undid his collar thrust his fat face out of the cart and said:

"What is that dreadful rattling there? What the hell is it? It's giving me no peace...'

'There's a screw loose in my cart, sir. It rattles away like a learned man—it doesn't understand itself, neither do others understand it'.

'You're a sly one, Andreshko, a sly one! If you're not married, I bet you're a rum lad with the girls. You people usually marry young and have pretty little wives.'

'You can say what you like, sir, but our wives are nothing to the ladies...I know that very well! What are you, sir? What brings you to our village?'

'I'm a bailiff'.

'So you've come to sell someone up, have you?'

'Yes, of course. One of your peasants has been leading me a pretty dance, but this time I'll show him what's what. I've been after him several times, but he's always given me the slip...I've got on to him now though: I found out he was tricking me, and tonight I'm going to catch him, and he'll have cause to remember me all right...I'll sequestrate his wheat! That'll teach him what's what and make an example of him; you'll all know better than to play tricks on us another time. You cheat the townspeoples—sell them bad eggs and rancid butter. But you just wait, you sly peasant folk—you can't cheat the authorities so easily! They have a tight grip on you—a good tight grip. You need a whip about you, that would teach you!...You've become drunkards, you're rotten all through, you're bad taxpayers and you'll ruin the state. Ah, why haven't I more power! I would make angels of you!'

The bailiff undid his coat and his body moved about inside it like that of a chicken about to hatch out of its shell.

"Well, Mr. Bailiff, God made the world and decided that women didn't need beards, so he didn't give them any. He decided that the donkey needed long ears and gave it long ones,' answered Andreshko with pretended naivete.

'Don't chatter so much! Drive on because it's getting dark... You've charged me a lot, you devil! So much money for twenty kilometres! You know how to stick it on...Drive on, do you hear? Drive on, your jades have gone to sleep!'

'Gee-up, gee-up, gentlemen!' shouted Andreshko and twirled his whip.

'You call them gentlemen eh? Better call them brothers,' remarked the bailiff crossly.

'That would annoy them. Mr. Bailiff! I should offend their honour if I didn't call them gentlemen! Their service is like that of officials—it goes by the clock, go to bed by the clock, and are fed by the clock. After that we harness them, that is to say, they enter their offices and that's that. And sometimes in their stalls they even read their papers.'

'Just tell me where you've been drinking, my friend, and don't chatter! Drive on, because we're late. You've sly eyes, very sly.'

'There are no wolves, sir, don't be afraid,' said the carter in such a tone that the respectable official glanced around in alarm.

'I'm not afraid of wolves, my friend, but it's getting cold. I haven't time to catch a cold.'

'Wrap yourself up in the sacking. My horses never complain of a cold. The sacking is very warm.'

"What beastly weather!' thought the bailiff and said sternly:

'Drive on, drive on, you swine!'

And swelling with angry pride, he sank into his big coat and fell silent.

'A-ha, you've fallen into good hands, friend', thought Andreshko to himself. And turning round, he asked in a serious tone:

'So you're going to sell someone up, are you? And whose heart are you going to warm?'

—(To be concluded)

World Bank Hails Indian Economy

THE performance of the Indian Economy has been hailed by the World Bank in its annual report for the year ended June this year.

Some of the salient features mentioned the report are:

Though inflation is of some concern again, the large foodgrain stock as well as increased scope for imports resulting from large foreign exchange reserves and further liberalisation should help counter further upward pressure on prices.

Whole sale prices which fell steadily between September 1974 and March 1976 have recorded increase in subsequent months at an annual rate of about 10 per cent.

Agriculture is clearly the pivotal sector both for alleviation of poverty and promotion of economic growth.

Though there was a record production of foodgrains in 1975-76 and a good crop in 1976-77, the long term growth rate has been low at 2.5 per cent in the last 7 years.

World Bank assisted projects are:

An IDA credit of 200 million dollars to the Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation to benefit a million farmers. It will support ARDC's investment programme involving a total of 583 million dollars. The credit will assist in providing loans to farmers for development purposes, mainly minor irrigation and for promoting tree crops, dairy, poultry, sericulture, fisheries and several other farming activities. About 100 million dollars will be reserved for small farmers, who will qualify for preferential borrowing terms.

Urban development in two major cities — Madras and Bombay — assisted by a 49 million dollar credit from the World Bank and IDA.

Another important loan of 150 million dollars to be spent on the Bombay High and Bassein oil and gas fields. By this, the Bank will be financing India's petroleum industry for the first time.

FUN AND LAUGHTER

VIEWPOINTS

She : "This is an ideal spot for a picnic."

He: "It must be—fifty million insects can't be wrong ?"

x x x

PAINFUL HOBBY

"My father plays the piano accordion every night and cries like a child."

"Does the music affect him so, much ?"

"No, it's not that, you see every time the accordion goes in and out it pinches his tummy !"

x x x

THE OTHER WAY ABOUT

First Girl (on bathing beach) : "Louise ought not to go in alone. She was nearly drowned yesterday and Peter had to use artificial respiration."

Second Girl : "You mean Louise had to use artificial drowning !"

x x x

DIFFERENT TACTICS

First chorus girl : "How on earth did you manage to get such a marvellous mink coat in such a short time ? I've been struggling for ages to get one !"

Second chorus girl : "Oh, I quit struggling :"

x x x

CHALLENGE !

In the course of the play one of the characters had to say to a very plain actor : "My lord, you change countenance," whereupon a young fellow in the pit cried : "For heavan's sake, let him !"

x x x

WHO IS DEAF !

I was coming from the City by train one evening and the guard stopped the train and cried "All change," and one old lady said, "Is this Aldgate East ?" The guard replied, "No, it's all get out."

* * *

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"Are you in favour of women taking part in public affairs ?"

"It's all right if you readily want the affairs public."

x

STRANGE CARGO !

Wife : "Oh, look ! The Browns are bringing in the yule log !"

Husband : "No darling they're not. That's Brown !"

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BOMBAY

PRUDENCE !

He swayed from the Barleycorn and struck three matches in succession against a lamp post, but they just fizzed. A fourth ignited and having lit his cigarette, he put the matchstick in his pocket.

"I'll keep that one—it works," he muttered, wagging his fuddled head sagely.

x x x

SPORTING DECLARATION !

Bank teller to man at window: "Sorry, sir, but your wife beat you to the draw."

x x x

CALCULATION

A man thought himself very funny indeed. Going up to a stranger in the street, he said :

"A train averaging fifty miles an hour leaves New York at three o'clock, and meets another train doing sixty an hour from Chicago ! How old am I ?"

The stranger looked him up and down.

"Why, you're thirty-eight," he said.

"I am," admitted the clever one. "How in the world did you guess ?"

"Easy," explained the stranger. "My cousin is nineteen, and he's half crazy."

* * *

ORGAN RECITAL !

The story is told of an army veteran who returned to the home of his boyhood to attend a banquet given to the old boys. The diners were all men he had known as youngsters. He expected them to talk over old times. Instead, one talked incessantly about his bad liver ; another discoursed on his weak heart ; a third had a lot to say about his kidney trouble, and so it went on. When the veteran returned to his home he was asked how he enjoyed the banquet. "Banquet," he snorted. "It wasn't banquet. It was an organ recital."

* * *

WARNING

Staggering with weariness, the farm horse started up the slope, pulling a heavy load.

"Giddap," called the farmer shaking the reins. The horse tugged, lost its footing, and went down on its knees. The farmer cursed.

"Git up. you thunder-in' idiot," The horse lay on it side and stared dejectedly over its shoulder at the farmer, ho burst out :

"Tarnation damn! If you don't git up, I'll drive right over you !"

x x x

JAW BREAKING

Teacher : "What do you know about Czechoslovakia ?"

Boy : "Please sir, it's very hard to say it."

PINPRICKS

"Do you think it is good luck to pick up pins ?"

"Not if the gal they're fastened on to objects."

x x x

CHARMER

When his wife said: "You're just a nasty snake," he said : "Well, it doesn't say much for you as a charmer."

* * *

INDEED

"Did you ever fall in love with words ?"

"Oh ! yes, indeed ! Such as Enclosed find cheque."

x x x

THE HINT

"I'm told her fiance's father is a judge."

"Really! Well, I must say her fiance isn't."

* * *

TOO FAMILIAR

"That new warder is getting altogether too familiar with the prisoners ; he's started calling them by their first number."

* * *

BY YOUR LEAVE !

She came in to find her husband and his lawyer engaged in some mysterious business over the dining-room table, upon which were spread several closely typed documents.

"What are you doing with all that paper, Henry ?" she demanded,

"I am making a wish," said the husband meekly.

"A wish ?"

"Yes, my dear. In your presence I shall not presume to call it a will."

* * *

PROGRESS

"What can I do to get a good night's sleep ?"

"Try taking a glass of warm milk and a little scraped apple just before going to bed."

"But doctor six months ago you told me to go to bed fasting."

x x x

SUGGESTION

A number of friends were discussing the limit of families at a dinner party. "I'm sure there's something in this suggestion business. Drakes, for during the time Bobby and Joan were arriving my wife read the 'Heavenly Twins.' "

"Good Lord," yelled Jones as he jumped up from the table and made for the hall. "I left my wife readiog the "Theree Musketeers."

x x x

DIFFERENCE

The small son of a noted scientist asked his father what the difference was between a dog and a motor car. The great man thought, suggested several answers, then, to the delight of the youngster, gave it up. "You're not very clever, dad : it's easy. Why, a dog barks and a motor car hoots."

OTHER END

Teacher : "If it were possible for me to make a hole from England right through the earth, where would I come out ?"

Boy : "At the other end, sir."

* * *

HIS ANSWER

The rector was taking a class of junior children in religious instruction. He talked to them about Jesus and His love for little children, and asked eventually, "Can anyone tell me what kind of child goes to heaven with Jesus ?"

"Yes, sir," came quickly from one boy. "I know—all the dead ones."

x x x

FOR SEVEN ONLY

Employer : "Why were you late this morning ?"

Office Boy : "On account of my alarm clock. Everybody in the house got up except me."

Empolyer : "How was that ?"

Office Boy : "There are eight of us and the alarm clock was only set for seven."

* * *

CAMERAMAN

Little Willie dashed breathlessly into the chemist's shop.

"Quick," he panted. "My father's hanging by his pants from a spiked railing."

"What can I do ?" asked the chemist.

"Put a new roll in my camera," said Willie.

x x x

SO SIMPLE

"I am going to be a teacher when I grow up," said Pamela.

"You will have to work hard and learn a lot, then," replied her mother.

"Oh, you don't have to learn much," remarked Pamela. "You only have to ask questions."

* * *

THE WRONG PLACE

A woman returned a smart pair of shoes to the exclusive shop from which she had bought them. "They won't do," she said. "I simply cannot walk in them."

"Madam" the salesman replied, looking down his nose. "people who have to walk do not shop here."

x x x

NOT AT NIGHT

Client (just acquitted on burg' lary charge)—"Well, good-bye. I'll drop in on you some time."

Counsel :—"All right, but make it in the daytime, please."

x x x

EXPLAINED

Tommy had just handed in his homework and the teacher was examining it closely.

"Tommy," she said after a while, "this looks very much like your father's writing."

"Well, teacher," said Tommy, after a pause, "now I come to think of it, I did use Father's fountain-pen."

x x x

LOST

The solitary man was looking anxiously around as if he had lost something. "Are you looking for anything in man's clothing, sir ?" asked a polite assistant. "Certainly not," was the reply, "I'm looking for something in women's clothing. I've lost my wife."

Card Game's Court Of Appeal

Skat, played with a 32-card pack by three players, is undoubtedly the most popular card game in the German-speaking world. It has been played for a century and a half and is a regular leisure pursuit for an estimated one person in three in Germany.

There is a skat association which runs tournaments and championships and, as the final court of appeal on the finer points of the game, the Skatgericht in Bielefeld which has laid down the law for fifty years this year.

Appeals and enquiries are dealt with from all over the world, including places as for apart as Argentina and Austsalia, Brazil and Canada, India and Iran, where the game has either been popularised by expatriates or been taken up by foreigners who become devotees of Skat in Germany.

A recent request for assistance came from the Federal Republic's consulate-general in Bombay, which relayed a request for details of how to run a Skat tournament. The Bielefeld panel of five "Judges" was happy to oblige.

Tourist Attraction

Miss Annabel Wellesley-Colley, a descendant of the Duke of Wellington, has again challenged Bath city planners by painting her front door bright yellow. She had done the same thing six years ago, irritating some local councillors who interpreted her extravagance as an affront to public tastes. The dispute over the door ended in a public inquiry, but the yellow paint faded and no action was taken. This time Councillor Fred Gilbert has suggested the Council should let the matter rest and let the yellow door stay, stressing that last time this yellow door became a tourist attraction.

Suitor, 12, Files Suit

A Twelve-year-old boy from Turkaman Sahra, Iran, has filed a complaint against the parents of his finance for breach of contract. Shah Goldi told officials that four years ago, when he was only eight-years old, his parents officially made an engagement cermony between him and Maryam Bibi, who at the time was 14 years old.

"We decided that when I reach the official age, Maryam and I would officially get married. But now that I am 12 years old, Maryam's parents have broken their promise and prevent me from marrying my sweetheart," Shah Goldi said. The matter is under investigation.

Vintage Lawsuit

The wrangle over the will of Michele di Vincenzo, an Italian lawyer who died in 1871, is going on to this day. A court in Messina recently began a new hearing. In the 106 years the heirs — three generations of them —have gone to court twenty times and there have been 200 sessions with the participation of eighty lawyers and thirty magistrates.

Dangerous Cops

Dr. Edward Shev, a San Francisco psychiatrist, has screened and counselled thousands of police officers in the last thirteen years. His conclusion? Only 5 per cent of all police are "natural cops," men and women who know how to handle both the work and pressures of their job, 60 per cent are "treatable" in that they perform their duties well most of the time' and 35 per cent are "untreatable" men and women whose personalities are not suited to police work. They are "really dangerous" he says.

Noise Hazard

Noise has become an increasingly serious social problem in densely-populated Japan. Officials fear it may trigger a wave of manslaughters in summer.

As more and more Japanese pour into the cities and live in poorly-insulated apartments, crammed roof-to-roof, noise has become an unavoidable hazard.

The Tokyo metropolitan police received 13,343 noise complaints in 1976, and handled 6,821 noise complaints in the first half of 1977. In addition, the Tokyo metropolitan government's pollution Bureau received 5,137 noise complaints in 1976.

Although figures for the entire nation are not available, common noise complaints include crying babies, shouting children, radios, televisions, running water, flushing toilets, dogs, parties, construction noise and arguments between husbands and wives.

"During the summer we receive more complaints than any in other seasons, because people tend to leave their windows open and stay up late at night watching television or listening to stereos," a spokesman for the Pollution Bureau said in an interview.

Glider Flight from Mt. Fuji

An Australian, on July 24, ascended over Mount Fuji's 3,776 metre peak on a hot air balloon and descended on a hang glider.

The flier, Mr. Bill Flewllyn, 34, holds the world hang glider soaring record of 15 hours three minutes and 50 seconds.

This was the first time that a hang glider flight had been made from the highest Japanese mountain peak.

TERROR PLANTS

THEY look like plants but they have hearts and red blood and they eat flesh.

What are they?

Crinoids, plant-animals which exist in the depths of warm seas.

There are about 700 species extant, descendants of meat-eating forests which existed on land around 150,000,000 years ago.

Experts say crinoids are really animals which only look like plants.

Some anchor themselves to the bottom of the occean with plant-like stems while others are able to move about freely.

COLOURED

In their natural habitat they produce brilliantly-coloured flesh eating blossoms of red, green, purple and yellowe

But the colours are fast only in salt water and fad. rapidly when brought into contact with fresh water or air.

A crinoid also has the ability to shed one of its feather-like arms when attacked (for example, when seized by a fish) and grow another two in its place.

But it can't increase the number of its arms without discarding an old one.

It also tends to shake itself to pieces when alarmed.

For this reason, perfectly in act crinoids are rare.

Not quite so rare are rectangular trees, but they are known to grow only in a valley a few miles north of the Panama Canal Zone.

The trees are members of the cottonwood family and have rectangular trunks.

Scientists say the trees are "born" that shape because even the rings denoting yearly growth are rectangular.

Another of nature's oddities is the blue moon-wort of the Swiss Alps.

It is a delicate-looking flower with thin, paper-like leaves but it forces its way through several inches of ice to reach the sun and air in the early spring.

THICK

In the autumn the plant has thick, leather-like leaves which lie flat on the ground waiting for the snow and ice which will cover them to a depth of several feet during the winter.

With the spring, the sun melts the snow and some of the ice and water trickles down to the roots and wakes the plant.

Chemical compounds in the leaves are converted into heat and the stem of the plant melts a tunnel for itself as it pushes its way up through the ice.

But among the most spectacular of all the odd plants on earth is General Sherman, a redwood tree in California's Sequoia National Park.

INCREASED

The General began life as a tiny seed nearly 4,000 years ago. Since then it has increased its weight an estimated 250,000 million times.

Today it tops 272ft., while its waistline 5 ft. from the ground is an impressive 79ft.

But it is slim compared with a cypress, known as SANTA MARIA DEL TULE, in Oaxaca State, Mexico.

In 1949 this tree's waistline 5ft. from the ground measured roughly 113ft.

The world's largest odd ty among flowering plants is a so to be found in America—at Sierra Madre, California. It is a giant Chinese Wisteria.

It was planted 84 years ago. Today it covers an acre of ground, has 500ft. branches, weighs an estimated 252 tons —and produces 1,500,000 blooms a year. —*Week End*.

Forgeproof Notes

You can count on the fingers of one hand the number of people who are claimed to know the composition of a secret additive that makes deutschmark banknotes forgeproof. Electronic sorting machines count bundles of notes in seconds and not only set aside the torn and tattered ones but also spot with an unerring electronic eye the forgeries: notes that do not contain the new additive.

A company was set up sometime ago specially to develop, on behalf of Deutsche Bundesbank, a forgeproof dye additive. Development work has proved costly but worthwhile, for deutschmark forgers are most unlikely to succeed in analysing the mysterious additive, or so the five men in the know claim.

Deutschmark notes are printed in West Berlin, Frankfort and Munich, and every note is checked before leaving the printers to make sure it contains the right admixture of substance X. Notes that fall to pass the electronic test remain uncirculated, and the major clearing banks all use the new sorting machinery that sorts out the sheep from the goats.

Printing banknotes is not what costs the money; the safety precautions are what really send costs soaring—so much so that the West Berlin printing office runs at a loss. So in order to keep the presses busy and to help redress the financial balance, foreign currency is printed to order in West Berlin at the merest fraction over cost price.

For The Week 25th September To 1st October 1977

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika $^1/_4$

MOST of the week is favourable. But you must be prepared for financial problems. The position will improve by the end of this week. You should try to finalise partnership arrangements. Professional prospects are better. Domestic atmosphere will be pleasant. But you may have to take up some additional responsibilities. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 27th & 28th.

★

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika $^3/_4$ Rohini
Mrigashirsha $^1/_2$

THE whole week will be progressive. You can go ahead with your plans. There is scope for financial improvement. But avoid speculative investments. Domestic responsibility will increase. There is need for patience and understanding. Mental activity is increased. There is no major change in office. You should continue your efforts. You will be able to reap the benefits in the near future. Favourable days: 25th & 26th.

★

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha $^1/_2$ Arudra
Punarvasu $^3/_4$

THERE is speculative attraction this week. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Official atmosphere will be ordinary. But avoid friction with associates. The general level of comfort at home will be satisfactory. Keep an eye on children. In the affairs of heart sucess is assured. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 28th & 29th.

★

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu $^1/_4$ Pushya
Ashlesha

THE first part of the week stimulates enthusiasm and success in efforts. Renew your contacts and try to complete your outstanding work. Correspondence will be favourable. Family happiness is assured. Profession requires more attention. You may get reward and recognition for the efforts you were making for the past two months. Financial position will improve. Health requires attention. Favourable days: 30th & 1st.

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni $^1/_4$

THE week starts well. Finance will improve. Investment in real estate will yield better results. Continue your efforts in office. Do not worry if the improvement is slow. You will be able to reap the benefits in the near future. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Avoid long distance journeys. Favourable days: 27th & 28th.

★

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni $^3/_4$ Hastha
Chitra $^1/_2$

THE week starts with an opportunity to renew your old contacts. Business will improve. Promotional possibilities are bright. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Health requires attention. Problems are indicated relating to transport and communication. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Avoid long distance journeys. Favourable days: 26th & 27th.

★

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra $^1/_2$ Swathi
Visakha $^3/_4$

THE week shows ordinary results. You should wait for some more time to implement your programme. Avoid impulsive actions while deciding important matters. Family atmosphere will be mixed. Keep an eye on children. Health will improve but avoid taking up additional responsibilities for some more time. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Favourable days: 28th & 29th.

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha $^1/_4$ Anuradha
Jyeshtha

THIS week shows mixed results. Financial position will improve. But outgoings will be heavy. You should avoid expenses on luxury items for the present. Family responsibility will increase, but you can expect cooperation from your family members. There is no major change in office. You should continue your efforts to get recognition and better position. You should be diplomatic in dealing with your superiors. Favourable days: 29th & 30th.

★

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha $^1/_4$

THIS week is progressive. You will find your associates very cooperative. You will be given a new and more attractive position. Financial position will improve. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Investment in real property will also yield better results. Short journeys are indicated. Family happiness is assured. Matters relating to children could be finalised. Favourable days: 30th & 1st.

★

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha $^3/_4$
Shravana Dhanistha $^1/_2$

THIS week shows ordinary results. You should wait for some more time to implement your plans. Avoid friction with associates. Also avoid impulsive action while deciding important matters. Health will show signs of improvement. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments. Family responsibility will increase. But you can expect cooperation from your family members. Favourable days: 28th & 29th.

GLOSSARY

Arudra	—திருவாதிரை
Pushya	—பூசம்
Ashlesha	—ஆயில்யம்
Purva Phalguni	—பூரம்
Uttara Phalguni	—உத்திரம்
Anuradha	—அனுஷம்
Jyeshtha	—கேட்டை
Purva Ashada	—பூராடம்
Uttara Ashada	—உத்திராடம்
Shravana	—திருவோணம்
Dhanistha	—அவிட்டம்
Satha Bhishag	—சதயம்
Purva Bhadrapada	—பூரட்டாதி
Uttara Bhadrapada	—உத்திரட்டாதி

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta $^1/_2$ Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada $^3/_4$

THIS week is favourable to solve some of the long pending problems. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. Property matters could be finalised favourably. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Religious function takes place in the family. Children's progress will give you much satisfaction. Health will improve. Financial position will improve. Favourable days: 29th & 30th.

★

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada $^1/_4$
Uttara Badrapada Revati

MOST of the week is ordinary. You should wait for some more time to implement your plans. There is no major change in office. You should be diplomatic in dealing with your superiors. You should also avoid friction with associates. Family atmosphere will be pleasent. But keep an eye on children. Financial position will be satisfactory. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Short journey is a possibility. Favourable days: 28th & 29th.

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The BBC And The 'Think Tank'

YOU will by now have heard, read or seen that a team set up by the British Government has produced a report on British Representation Overseas. It notes that the BBC has a world-wide reputation for the high quality of its broadcasting and that its External Services can justifiably be claimed to be one of the UK's success stories. Nonetheless the report recommends in addition to reductions in the Diplomatic Service and the near abolition of the British Council, swingeing cuts in the External Services of the BBC. These 'options', as the Central Policy Review Staff (the Think Tank') calls them, would include a cut of eight hours in the present 24-hour cycle of World Service and the complete abandoning of our listeners in vast regions. Apart from a proposed total close-down of Bush House from 2000—0400 GMT the report calls for the ending of twelve language services: French (both for France and for Africa), German (For the Federal Republic), Finnish, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Japanese, Somali, Tamil, Nepali and Burmese, as well as the daily transmission in Maltese. This is one-third of the existing total.

The Report's proposals are only, we stress, proposals and, indeed, we hope they will never be implemented.

World Service coverage would be radically curtailed:

The proposals include:

* No transmissions to North America, Australia, New Zealand, Western and Southern Europe
* No broadcasting at all between 2000 and 0400 GMT and therefore no service for the large evening audiences in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Western Hemisphere
* No breakfast listening in S.E. Asia, Australia, Indian Subcontinent, USSR East of Moscow, Iran, the Gulf, East Africa
* No special alternative transmissions for South Asia
* Some reduction in alternative transmissions for Africa

Moreover, the adjustment of World Service programming to fit within a 16 hour rather than a 24 hour schedule would inevitably affect the overall mixture of programme elements. It would be difficult to maintain the present carefully preserved balance between news and information, cultural programmes and entertainment: and some important and popular elements would almost certainly be reduced or lost altogether.

Editor of World Service, Austen Kark, comments: 'These proposals—if they were ever to be approved by the British Government—would mean that millions of World Service listeners would lose contact with London and the BBC's tradition of round-the world and round the-clock public service broadcasting. It would be a sad day or our listeners, a sad day for the BBC and a sad day for Britain."

The Report has been criticised by the Chairman of the BBC Sir Michael Swann: "If the Report's recommendations are accepted Britain will be seen to have deliberately withdrawn from the dominant role it has played in world broadcasting since 1940. It will have made way for its ideological competitors at a time when External Services' effectiveness is at its highest and the need for their contribution at its greatest. While the BBC welcomes the CPRS's emphasis on the need to improve audibility, which it has itself been stressing over many years, it regards the drastic proposed reductions in broadcasting as an inordinate price to pay for a programme of modernisation which has been officially recognised as necessary since 1965."

Reactions to the CPRS proposals came in immediately, the first being from a World Service listener in Melbourne who telexed his protest at 0300 GMT. Many more have come in since. The press in Britain was generally critical:

"(The BBC)...is an object of respect all over the world. Even the Tankers admit that: 'External broadcasting can justifiably be claimed to be one of the K's success stories.' Why then seek to limit it?

—Sunday Times, 7th August

"For millions of people across the world the voice of the BBC is the voice of truth...If the Think Tank's proposals are accepted, Britain will be gagging itself. BBC overseas broadcasts have a bigger world audience than any rival. And, more important, a bigg r reputation for truth."

The Managing Director of External Broadcasting, Gerard Mansell, has pointed out that the cuts amount to 40% of the broadcasting output as a whole and yet would only result in a saving of 10% in revenue. He characterises the Report as pessimistic and over-simplified. "It overlooks the role which continues to be played by the UK in upholding the valves of free and open societies and the influence which it is able to exert, through the BBC, in the dialogue between rich and poor, black and white, totalitarian and free. It is through the dissemination of information about our ways, institutions and achievements that people all over the world are able to retain an awareness of and a faith in the validity of democracy and the rule of law as a way of running a society. This is a contribution which Britain is well placed to make towards a saner, more tolerant and more stable world. The CPRS proposals would have the effect of gravely impairing the BBC's ability to make that contribution. The repercussions of such drastic surgery in terms of Britain's image abroad would be immense." *—London Calling.*

Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

FESTIVAL OF INDIAN CULTURE: UNIQUE EVENT IN THE USSR

A FESTIVAL of Indian Art and Culture has been organised in the USSR to mark the 30th anniversary of India's independence. When I attended the festival I felt as though I was in India. This 20-day festival is indeed a unique event in the Soviet Union. This festival provided us an opportunity to get a glimpse of the rich and varied cultural heritage of India. This is the first time that such a festival on such a big scale has been arranged in Moscow.

The festival opening ceremony at Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow was held on 15th September.

The ceremony was attended by prominent leaders of the CPSU and the Soviet Government, India's Ambassador to the Soviet Union I.K. Gujral and the Soviet Ambassador to India V.F. Maltsev.

Having whole-heartedly greeted the Indian guests and paid tribute to the Indian people's tremendous contribution to the store-house of world art, V.I. Popov, Soviet Deputy Minister of Culture, in his inaugural speech said that, the festival turned a new page in the history of cultural relations between our countries.

Dr. P.C. Ghunder pointed out that this was a momentous year for the peoples of both countries. Cultural festivals dedicated to the 30th anniversary of Indian independence and the 60th anniversary of the October Revolution, he emphasised, would strengthen still more the bonds of friendship between the peoples of India and the Soviet Union. This friendship, the Indian Minister for education, Social welfare and culture pointed out, has stood the test of time.

Among the highlights of the festival are also performances in Indian dances—as well as performance on the Indian flute. What is more, Indian folk dances and two dance dramas "Ram Lila" and "Surdas" are being staged by a 45-member artiste troupe of the Sri Ram Bharatiya Kala Kendra at Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre and also in such towns as Sochi, Yerevan, Riga, Leningrad and Kiev.

These apart, Indian craftsmen will demonstrate their expertise in embroidery, carpet-weaving, metal works, woodwork, costume jewellery, textiles, sari ivory work, sandalwood carving, toy-puppet making, silk carpet-weaving, patta paintings, hand-prints, etc. Fifty selected miniature paintings of India representing different facets of Indian life from the 11th century to the present day will be displayed in Moscow and Leningrad. Citizens of Moscow, Tashkent, Minsk and Talinn are being provided with the opportunity to witness a photographic exhibition: "India—Past and Present". And to cap it all, a festival of Indian films is being held in Moscow, Baku, Alma Ata, Ufa and Yerevan.

A group of Indian writers and Poets are also here to exchange ideas with their Soviet counterparts in different parts of the Soviet land on the occasion of the festival.

KURT WALDHEIM: SIBERIAN IMPRESSIONS

A globe littered with rusty tins, automobile frames and rash of polyethylene packages—this is the subject of one of the UN postcards dealing with environmental protection. So what the UN Secretary-General said in Irkutsk, the eastern part of Soviet Siberia is of significance. Thanks to special measures taken by the state, rapid economic progress leaves no scars on the natural beauty of this territory, which, in area, is larger than most of the UN member-countries.

At the end of last week the Irkutsk region authorities, were able to demonstrate their achievements to Kurt Waldheim, who visited there in the course of his official visit to the Soviet Union. The UN Secretary-General arrived in the USSR on September 4th.

The visit of Kurt Waldheim to Siberia has largely altered some of his ideas about Siberia. In spite of very low temperature, the majority of the large rivers here do not freeze in winter. Siberia no longer is treasure-store of diamonds and gold as many foreigners think. True, it is both, but Irkutsk region obviously impressed the UN Secretary-General with the harmonious development of energy-intensive modern industries, such as iron ore production, aluminium smelting, and chemical processing of wood.

Sri S. M. Gowree Shankar Sthapathy

A Sthapathy's Concern

In a special pamphlet brought out for the purpose, Sri S. M. Gowree Shankar Sthapathy, the reputed South Indian sculptor in temple-art, has made a fervent appeal for the preservation of our time-worn traditions and for the revival and adoption of our proven Structural Science.

In his appeal to the various governments, head of mutts and others he has deplored the growing tendency of the authorities concerned to transfer the temple renovation work to engineers who lack experience in this field and who are ignorant of the agamas.

The reknowned sthapathy expressed apathy over the practice of relegating to a secondary position our architecture and sculpture giving precedence to so called modern engineering technology based on foreign designs even in relation to the construction and renovotion of the ancient temple ruins.

Further, he has requested the State Governments to provide old-age pension to the ageing sthapathis who have rendered yeomen service to our treasured arts.

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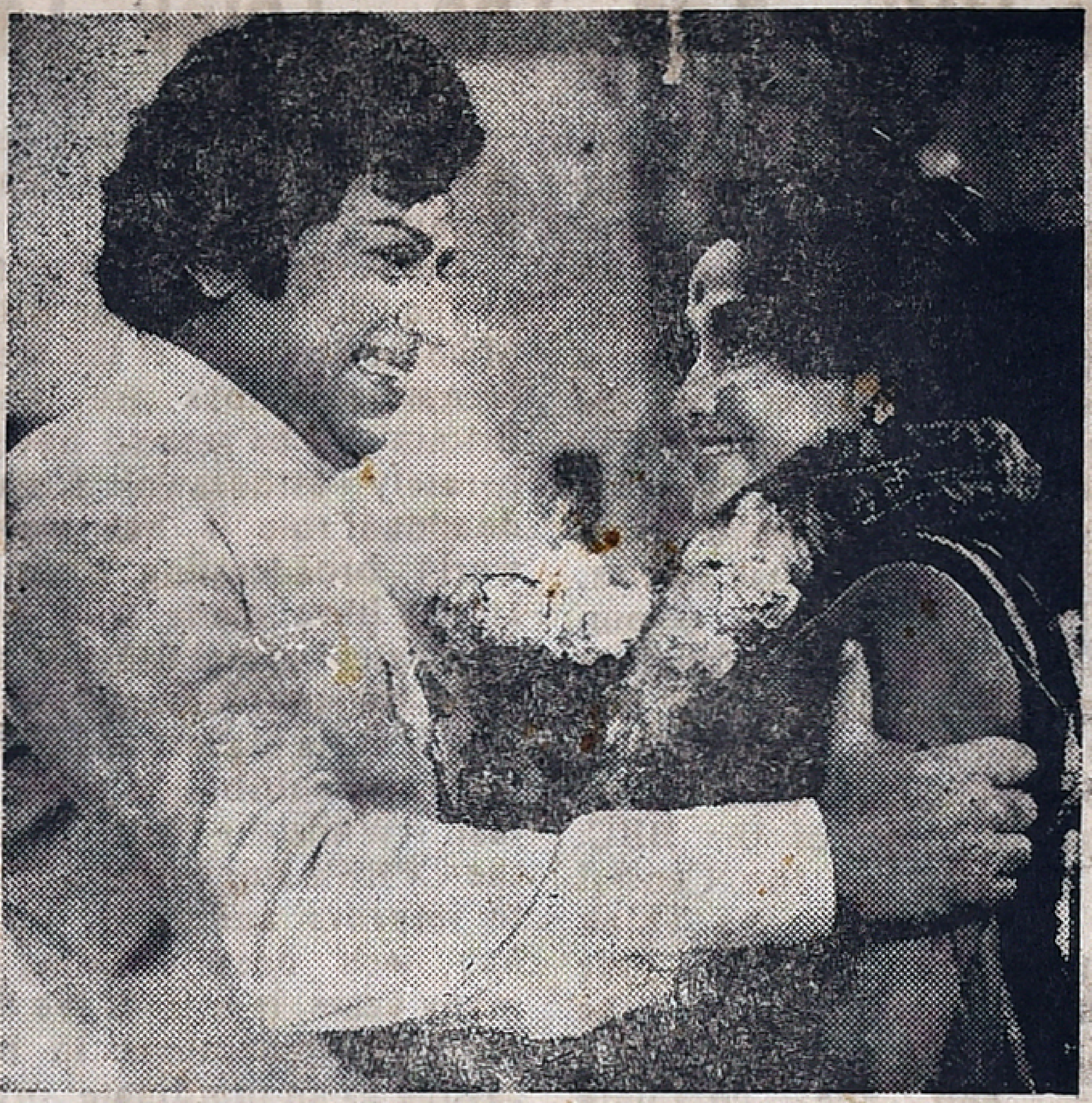
Nenjodu Nenjam

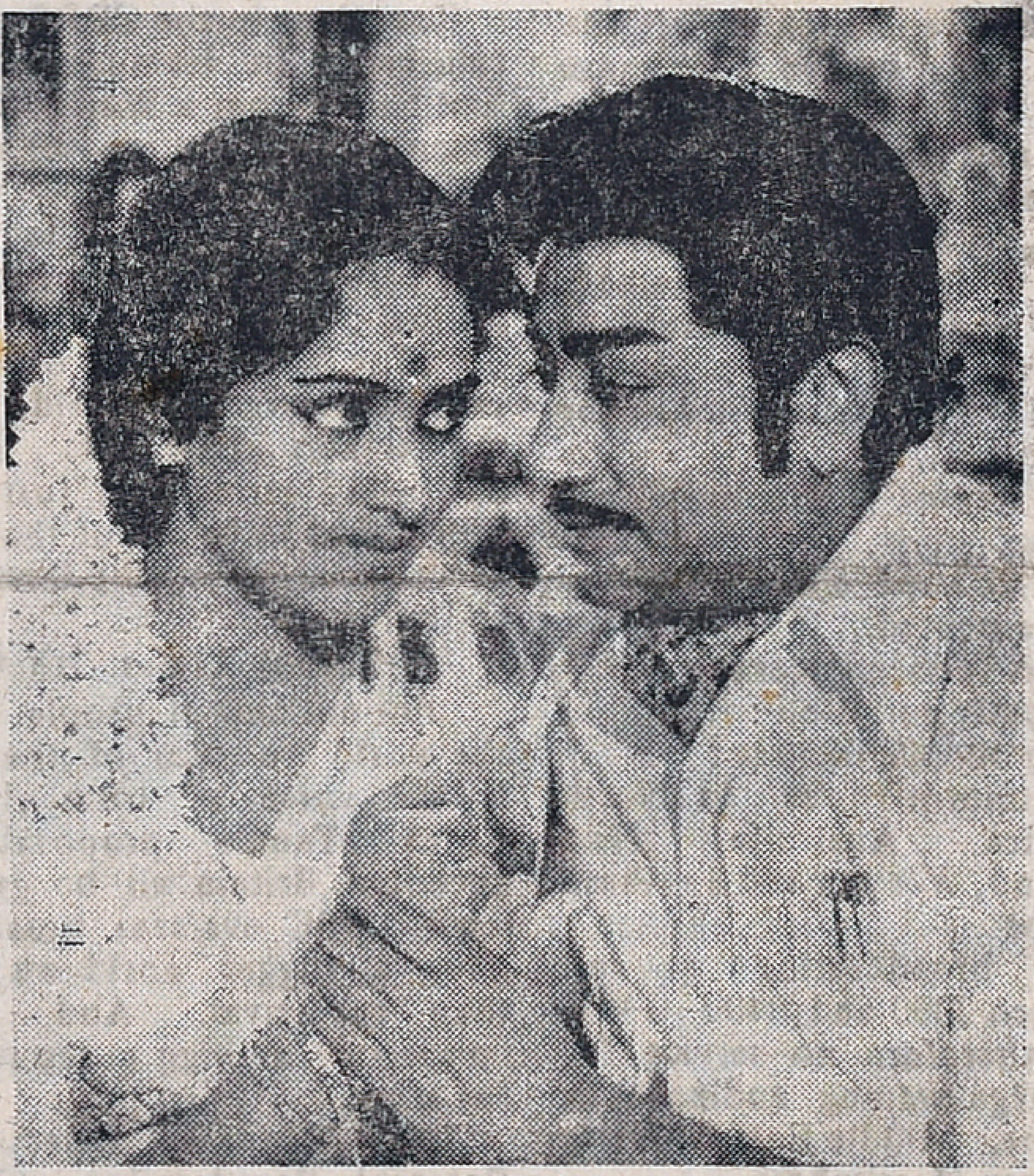
A secuence for M. S. Basu's Kadambari Films' NENJODU NENJAM was recently shot at Porur village near the City with Lakshmisri and Vijay Anand doing the acting.

Directed by T. Janakiram, the picture has a story by M. S. Basu and the dialogue by 'Vietnam Veedu' Sundaram. The songs are penned by Pulamaipithan, Viveka and Atralarasu. Muralikrishna is be in charge of music direction.

Gemini Ganesh, S.V. Subbiah, Y. Vijaya, Lakshmisri, Asha, Vijay Anand, Krishna Rao, Lavanya, Jalaja, Jayaleela, Padmamalini and a score of others are acting in this movie photographed by Muthu.



Chandrakala and S.S. Rajendran in Pasumponn Pictures' CHANDRAMOHAN



Sivaji Ganesan and K.R. Vijaya are teamed together in director Yoganand's new film.

Srividya and Vijayakumar in Amudha Chitra's AARU PUSHPANGAL directed by K. M. Balakrishnan.

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